

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CA-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 /074 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BRUSSELL

APPROVED BY AF/P:FCOOK

-----115387 260548Z /21

R 252204Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 217216

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, AUGUST 25, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN UNOFFICIAL, UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT OF TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. OFFICIAL VERSION WILL
FOLLOW IF NECESSARY.

Q: RECENTLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT DENIED A VISIT TO DR. IAN
ANDERSON OF RHODESIA, WHO I UNDERSTAND IS A PRIVATE CITIZEN
OF THAT COUNTRY, ON THE GROUND THAT HE HAD FURTHERED OR
ENCOURAGED OR WAS LIKELY TO FURTHER OR ENCOURAGE THE
UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES OF THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. THIS IS
THE SAME EXCUSE THAT WAS GIVEN MANY MONTHS AGO FOR
DENYING A VISA TO CHIEF CHIRAU BUT RECENTLY A VISA WAS
ISSUED TO BISHOP MUZOREWA AND OTHERS OF HIS PARTY WHO ARE
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CERTAINLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE-PRESENT RHODESIAN-GOVERNMENT.
WHAT STANDARD, IF ANY, IS BEING USED TO DECIDE WHAT
RHODESIANS ARE TO BE ADMITTED TO THIS COUNTRY AND WHAT ARE
TO BE EXCLUDED?

A: I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR CASE THAT YOU'RE
ASKING ABOUT. NORMALLY IN THE PAST WE WOULD NOT GRANT
VISAS TO THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE SMITH REGIME, TO
OFFICIALS OF THE REGIME -- THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED IN THE

PAST. THERE WERE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN REGARD TO
BISHOP MUZOREWA BECAUSE OF HIS ROLE IN THE MOVE TO BRING
HIS COUNTRY TO INDEPENDENCE. I DON'T HAVE ANY GUIDELINES
TO OFFER YOU OVERALL FOR ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO RHODESIANS.
WE DO CONSIDER THEM ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

Q: ROBERT MUGABE HAS TOLD ZIMBABWE NEWS THAT WHEN HE
COMES TO POWER HE INTENDS TO EXECUTE BISHOP MUZOREWA,
THE REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE, AND IAN SMITH. IN VIEW
OF THE MURDER OF TWO OF SITHOLE'S AIDES, BRINGING TO
49 THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL OR SUPPORTERS OF THE INTERIM
GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE BEEN MURDERED, COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHY

THE STATE DEPARTMENT WANTS THE EMBARGO CONTINUED UNTIL
THE INTENDED MURDER VICTIMS PARLAY WITH THEIR ANNOUNCED
INTENDED EXECUTIONER -- I.E., MR. MUGABE?

A: I THINK WE'VE MADE PRETTY CLEAR OUR POSITION ON THE
NEED, AS WE SEE IT, FOR A CONFERENCE WHICH WILL INVOLVE
ALL THE MAJOR PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE.

Q: COULD YOU EXPLAIN HOW REASONABLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT
EXPECTS BISHOP MUZOREWA AND THE REVEREND SITHOLE TO PARLAY
IN COMFORT WITH A MAN WHO HAS ANNOUNCED HE'S GOING TO KILL
THEM?

A: BISHOP MUZOREWA AND OTHERS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE ON
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THEIR OWN UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS THEY CAN TALK WITH OTHER
LEADERS BUT IT IS OUR HOPE THAT ALL THE LEADERS WILL
GET TOGETHER IN AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. IT'S OUR
BELIEF THAT THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE
WORKING TOWARD.

Q: BUT HOW CAN YOU REASONABLY EXPECT THEM TO DO IT WHEN
ONE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE'S GOING TO KILL THE OTHER? I'M
TALKING ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, NOT BISHOP MUZOREWA.

A: I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DEBATE THIS WITH YOU
AFTERWARD IF YOU LIKE, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S REALLY
FRUITFUL TO GO ON TO TALK ABOUT WHETHER BISHOP MUZOREWA
WILL OR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SIT DOWN WITH MR. MUGABE ON
THAT BASIS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE217216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BRUSSELL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780349-0755
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780821/aaaaartt.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e44755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1615717
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, AUGUST 25, 1978 FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN UNOFFICIAL, UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT OF TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. OFFICIAL VE
TAGS: SOPN
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e44755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014